



*Présidence luxembourgeoise  
du Conseil de l'Union européenne*

## **12th Meeting of European Ministers responsible for Public Administration, Mondorf-les-Bains, 8 June 2005**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

The European Council of Lisbon in March 2000 stressed that the Union should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable growth with more and better job opportunities, greater social cohesion and simplified regulatory environment.

Two years later, the European Council of Barcelona in March 2002, affirmed the importance of improving the quality of public administrations for the economic and social development of the European Union.

Five years later, the European Council of Brussels in March 2005 came to the conclusion, that it is essential to relaunch the Lisbon Strategy without delay and re-focus priorities on growth and employment. In this same context, the Council reiterates the importance it attaches to improving the regulatory environment and it requests the Commission and the Council to consider a common methodology for measuring administrative burdens with the aim of reaching an agreement by the end of 2005, taking advantage of the results of the Commission's pilot projects which are due in the course of 2005.

The Ministers of the extended Troika responsible for Public Administration and the Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Personnel and Administration at their meeting in Wassenaar in November 2004 agreed that more attention and effort is necessary from the Member states and from the European institutions in order to improve Public Administration, so that it becomes an important factor in the realization of the Lisbon objectives.

In this context, the Ministers responsible for Public Administration in the European Union in the presence of the Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud, during their meeting in Mondorf-les-Bains on 8 June 2005:

Value very highly the fruitful exchange of ideas, experiences and good/best practices between the Public Administrations of the EU Member states within the European Public Administration Network (EPAN). Furthermore, they congratulate the working groups for the successful implementation and development of activities and common tools in the areas established in the last Mid Term Program approved by the Directors General in Rome in December 2003.

Receive with interest the Study carried out by the European Institute of Public Administration in cooperation with the Luxembourg Presidency entitled 'A New Space for Public Administrations and Services of General Interest in an Enlarged Union'. They take note of the Study, which aims to make an important contribution for a better understanding of the perspectives on the constitution of a European administrative space and the recognition of the services of general interest in Europe, while taking into consideration the situation of the new Member states of the Union. The ministers take note of the significance of the humanization process in the public administration which places the citizen in the centre of public administration (human governance).

Notice with satisfaction the adoption of the *Framework for Implementing the EPAN Evaluation and the Report of the Task Force Enlargement* under the Irish Presidency and the work of subsequent Presidencies in implementing its recommendations.

Thank the Irish and the Dutch Presidencies for the work carried out since the last meeting of Ministers in Rome, on 1 December 2003.

Consider necessary to meet on the regular basis and as required in response to the issues arising to reinforce politically the cooperation within this area.

Consider advisable to follow also other issues that affect the Public Administrations and especially those referring to the enlargement of the European Union, the Lisbon Agenda and the social dialogue.

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Agree on the following declaration:

### ***The European Public Administration Network (EPAN) in the context of the Lisbon Strategy***

In their concern to enhance the competitiveness, innovation and performance orientation of the public administrations

- in order to better contribute to reaching the Lisbon goals of economic growth, job creation and social cohesion,

The Ministers responsible for Public Administration in the presence of the Vice-President of the Commission

- Consider that the public administrations have an important indirect role to play in achieving the Lisbon objectives
- Appreciate the significant work carried out by the Ad hoc Lisbon Group, which was established by the extraordinary meeting of Directors General in Luxembourg on 31 January and which concluded its work with a final report in April 2005.
- Share the opinion that the work of the European Public Administration Network should concentrate on actions designed to contribute to the Lisbon objectives.
- Ask the Directors General to reconsider in this respect the list of activities of the EPAN working groups under the UK Presidency in order to promote efficiency and coherence in the work programme of the European Public Administration Network and to avoid duplication of work already done in Community institutions and international organizations.

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### ***The Enlargement of the European Union and other developments***

The Ministers responsible for Public Administration in the presence of the Vice-President of the Commission

Welcome with great enthusiasm the participation of the 10 new Member states as full members of the cooperation framework since 1 May 2004

Congratulate Romania and Bulgaria on having signed the Treaty of Accession

Ask the Member states to continue to make efforts to guarantee the full participation of the new Member States, the Accession states and the Candidate states in the European Public Administration Network.

State that a high level of transparency is instrumental in delivering effective policies and enhancing the credibility of the public institutions. A high level of transparency is the hallmark of modern, service-minded administration with a developed sense of ethics in the work place.

They note that effective national implementation of Union Law by the Member States is a matter of interest to the network.

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## ***Areas of cooperation***

### **Innovative Public Services Group (IPSG)**

The Ministers support the important work in the fields of innovation and the improvement of the quality public services and this also with a view to achieving the objectives of the Lisbon agenda.

They highly value the readiness of Finland to host the Fourth Quality Conference (4QC) – Building Sustainable Quality - in Tampere in September 2006. They agree that the emphasis of the 4QC should embrace the question of the role of the public administrations in promoting Lisbon. They welcome the forthcoming work by the UK Presidency on the evaluation of the Quality Conferences and look forward to considering their findings and recommendations for the future.

They encourage an innovation agenda in the fields of benchmarking and best practices as well as in the development of CAF (Common Assessment Framework) and other quality tools and request that this work be better integrated with the Lisbon agenda.

### **Human Resource Management**

The Ministers acknowledge that a forward planning HRM, the selection of civil servants as a basis for a professional civil service and effective training are key factors of quality management and for promoting innovation and modernization processes in the public administrations of the EU Member states. They stress the importance of such processes in the Lisbon context and encourage progress in the work in this field.

They welcome the setting-up of the temporary informal database working group under the Dutch Presidency in December 2004 with the aim of making relevant information on mobility in Public Administrations of EU Member states available in all member states and appreciate that consistent progress has been achieved in this group under the Luxembourg Presidency.

They positively take notice of the Irish and Dutch approach to operate a team Presidency, which allowed bigger topics to be tackled as well as more in-depth discussions.

They request the Directors General responsible for Public Administration to examine, among other matters, the possibilities to watch the evolution of temporary contracts in the public administrations.

### **E-Government Working Group**

The modernization of public services in the framework of the Lisbon process also means further development and implementation of innovative e-Government and e-services initiatives rendered to the public.

The Ministers affirm their commitment to eGovernment in accordance with the eGovernment declaration in Brussels, the eEurope 2005 action Plan presented in Sevilla in 2002 and the i2010 action plan to meet the needs of citizens and enterprises, while giving priority to

those services that will consider citizen's demands and therefore provide a greater return in investment.

They acknowledge the necessity of the interoperability of the systems, the application of open standards, the taking forward of the pan-European dimension of e-government and that further arrangements be made in this regard at the European level.

They welcome the initiative of the UK to organize in November 2005 together with the European Commission the Third Conference on e-government.

### **Better regulation**

Better regulation by public administration is an important aspect of creating a competitive and business-friendly environment, which is considered a major priority for relaunching the Lisbon Strategy.

The Ministers note the invitation of the European Council to consider a common methodology for measuring administrative burdens by the end of 2005, taking advantage of the results of the Commission's pilot projects which are due in the course of 2005.

The Ministers welcome the initiative of the European Council to consider a common methodology for measuring administrative burdens by the end of 2005, the Commission's commitment to strengthen its impact assessment system in accordance with its communication, and work with the Council to ensure sustained progress in the simplification of existing legislation.

In this framework regulatory impact analysis, the consultation of stakeholders and the simplification through specific tools have a great importance because they allow to improve the services delivered to citizens and business by Public Administrations.

### **Social Dialogue**

In their concern to sustain all the modernisation efforts by their public administrations, in order to meet the challenges of:

- the administrative cooperation necessary for the European Union to function properly;
- services to be rendered to users (citizens, businesses and associations); and
- significant contributions to the success of the Lisbon Strategy;

The Ministers responsible for Public Administration reaffirm their determination to strengthen the European social dialogue initiated since the Strasbourg meeting in November 2000. To this end, they give the Directors General: the mission to examine how the social dialogue can be developed and improved, and how the employers and the employees can be consulted on issues and topics of their concern.

They will report to the Ministers at the next Ministers meeting.

They welcome the constitution of a common, pluralist representation of representative trade union organisations.

## ***Mid Term Programme 2006-2007 for the European Public Administration Network (EPAN)***

The Ministers highly appreciate the implementation of the Mid Term Programme 2004-2005 adopted in Rome by the Ministers responsible for Public Administration at their meeting in December 2003. They agree that priority should be given to the full implementation of this programme.

They approve the new Mid Term Programme to be implemented during the period of 2006-2007, which has been elaborated by the Luxembourg Presidency on the basis of a broad consultation with the EU Member states.